

REMARKS

In this amendment, no claims are added and claims 6 and 22 are cancelled. Accordingly, claims 5, 7-13, 15, 17, 21 and 23-24 are pending.

On July 11, 2008, the undersigned conducted an interview with Examiner Nguyen in connection with this application. At the interview, the rejection of the claims over Chesney et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,544,188 (Chesney) was discussed. Applicant proposed to amend claim 5 and claim 23 as reflected herein. Examiner Nguyen agreed that the amendments to claims 5 and 23 patentably distinguished those claims from Chesney. The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Nguyen for the helpful comments and suggestions offered during the interview.

Specifically, claim 5 is amended to recite that the handle is a rod including notches disposed at first and second end portions. An exemplary handle is depicted in Figure 1. However, handles according to the invention are not limited to the construction depicted in Figure 1. For example, although Figure 1 shows the handle as a rod having circular cross section, the handle may have a cross section of any shape, e.g., square, rectangular, triangular, etc. Chesney simply does not disclose a handle that is a rod having notches at its ends. It follows that claim 5 and dependent claims 7-13, 15, 17, 21 and 23-24 are properly allowable.

Regarding claim 23, it is amended to recite that the strap is sandwiched between the base and at least a portion of the structural member. Chesney does not disclose such a construction. Accordingly, claim 23 and dependent claim 24 are properly allowable.

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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is asserted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the rejection and a favorable action on the merits are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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